



Boston Harbor Islands Travel Tips For Education Groups

- ✓ **Transportation:** For information on Public Ferry Schedules, departure points, and operation dates; as well as availability of private group transportation to the islands please call the Park Information Line at (617)223- 8666 or consult www.bostonislands.com (click on “Trip Planning” and “Getting There”)
- ✓ **What to Wear:** Please remember that temperatures can be cooler in the fall and spring (often being 10- 15 degrees cooler than in Boston) and shelter from the elements is limited on the islands. Walking surfaces vary from pavement to grass, mud, and loose cobblestone.
Students should wear:
 - Rugged clothing
 - Comfortable walking shoes or boots that can get dirty, wet, and have good soles
 - Bring a sweatshirt or jacket.*Island Advice:*
 - Dress in Layers and wear sunscreen
 - Cotton clothing steals warmth from the body when it gets wet, wool and fleece are better
 - If it looks like rain, bring a rain coat
- ✓ **Availability of Food:** Most islands DO NOT have water, a snack bar, store, restaurant or any other means of obtaining food (Georges Island and Spectacle Island both have running water and a snack bar). Please bring your own lunch, snacks, and water. Picnic areas are located on each island. ***Please carry off all trash.***
Please note: Water will hydrate an active body; Soda will not, it dehydrates the body.
- ✓ **Restrooms:** There are self- composting trailhead toilets on every island and Georges and Spectacle Island have full bathroom facilities.
- ✓ **What to bring:** Keep your nautical chart with you aboard the boat so you will know where we are, what we are seeing, and where we are going. You may or may not need it on the island. Bring everything you think you may need, remember once you are on the island there is no way to get anything you forgot.
You may want:
 - A Flashlight
 - Camera
 - Pen and Paper
 - Sunscreen
 - Materials for on island activities

- ✓ **Safety First:** While on the Boston Harbor Islands there are many safety concerns students should be aware of including the wildlife and the remains of various structures.
 - Students should observe all safety regulations and behave in a controlled and courteous manner at all times.
 - Be prepared to listen and respond to any instructions given to you by the crew, teachers, or other adults on board or on the island.
 - No running, jumping, or other playground behavior aboard the boat. We can be more active on the island.

Please have at least one cell phone for the group. If Rangers are present on island please coordinate with them

- ✓ **Things to Remember:**
 - There are still private residents on Peddocks Island that should be afforded respect and privacy
 - Many buildings on the islands are EXTREMELY hazardous and should not be entered for any reason
 - Movement across, and around, the island can take time
 - On- island emergency facilities such as first aid, police, and radio or phone contact with the mainland may not be available unless provided by the group.
- ✓ **Group Supervision:** If possible please check in with a ranger when you arrive on the island. Teachers and Chaperones are responsible for the students. A ratio of 1 teacher or chaperone per 10 students is required and must be present with students while they explore the island.
- ✓ **Remember:**
 - You will be seeing some things for the first time, ASK QUESTIONS. The only stupid question is the one you don't ask.
 - Please practice Leave- No- Trace while on the island and on board the boats. Carry off all that you brought with you.
- ✓ **If you need assistance and are not on a guided tour with a Ranger:** Park Rangers and volunteers may be available (if on the island) to answer questions and provide any other assistance. In case of emergency when no Ranger is present, contact the Department of Conservation and Recreation Dispatch at (617)722- 1188, or dial 911 to reach the State Police and identify which island you are on and that you are in Boston Harbor. Following is a list of the nearest mainland dock to each island's dock
 - Peddocks Island, Lovells Island, Little Brewster Island, and Georges Island - Pemberton Pier in the town of Hull
 - Bumpkin Island and Grape Island – Hingham Shipyard in the town of Hingham
 - Spectacle Island and Thompson Island – EDIC Pier in South Boston